

draft retyped
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Legand

b. Lebanon

Officially outlawed since 1939, the Syrian Communist Party has operated openly ~~from~~ ^{until February 1988} since 1954, although as a gesture to legality ~~and~~ CPSY has refused to dissolve, and is currently acting clandestinely. ~~it has adopted the label of "National Union" party. In elections,~~ the party has cooperated with the Arab Socialist Resurrectionist Party, a left-wing group, and the two have sometimes supported ~~joint candidates.~~

Syrian difficulties with its neighbors, the Syrian-Soviet economic agreement, the Soviet supply of arms to Syria, Soviet support of Egypt when the latter was invaded, and the USSR's backing of the Arab cause against Israel ~~have~~ all contributed to the pro-Soviet trend in Syria and the ~~new~~ respectability of the Syrian Communist Party and its leader, Khalid Bakdash, who was elected to parliament in 1954. *The creation of the United Arab Republic has from* In its propaganda line the party

is concentrating on praise of the Soviet Union as the friend of the Arabs, ~~and on~~ charges of "imperialist" plots to overthrow the ~~U A R~~ ^{U A R}, and demands for democratization of the ~~U A R~~ ^{U A R} government. The Syrian Communist Party is estimated to have approximately 12,000 members.

b. Lebanon

The 1939 ban of the Lebanese Communist Party by the French Mandatory regime was continued in force by the Lebanese Government in 1948 but the party continues to function as an ^{illegal semi-clandestine} ~~active~~, ~~under~~ ^{linked into CP Syria under the leadership of Bakdash,} ~~secret~~ organization. Beirut is a center for the preparation and dissemination of Communist propaganda in the Near East and party front groups such as the Partisans of Peace are active. The

Lebanese Communist Party has an estimated membership of about 8,000 ^{but} ~~its~~ ^{its} dependable cadre is believed to be quite small. American elements ^{probably} comprise much of this cadre. The Christian-Muslim division in Lebanon ~~probably~~ ^{probably} serves to inhibit ~~communist~~ ^{communist} violent action by the Communists, who wish

XXXXXXXXXXThe Communist Party, its executive and its congress, its primary represented
to avoid being identified with either communal faction.
XXXXXXXXXXby the government. XXXX At times, however, (probably in late 1950) XXXX
XXXXXXXXXXgovernment completely red extremely narrow (not a decoration) open party XXXX
XXXX activity has been recorded. XXX

~~SECRET~~

Syria, Lebanon and ^{Jordan} Jordan

c. Jordan

Communist and front organization activity ~~has~~ increased considerably ^{after} ~~since~~ the annexation of former Arab Palestine, with its relatively large number of Westernized urban Arabs alienated from the West by the loss of their property in what is now Israel. The party ~~has~~ had growing success ^{from April 1957} in capitalizing on nationalist and other discontents, directed mainly against Israel and the British, ^{but} ~~though~~ the strength of its ideological appeal ^{limited. Much of this activity was dissipated by the repressive measures taken by the Jordan government in early 1957} ~~was negligible.~~ The Communist Party of Jordan is notable for the quality of its leaders (several are professionals and persons of standing in their communities), ~~and~~ for its relatively high degree of discipline, ^{and its ties with the government -}

The party gained ^{some} ~~wide~~ public acceptance at the time of the rioting which achieved the dismissal of Jordan's former British Chief of Staff, General Glubb. In April 1957, Communists acted with other elements in an abortive effort to overthrow King Husayn. Since the King reasserted personal rule, Communists have suffered proportionately more than other groups from government security measures, ^{and this is evidence linking it clearly} ~~open trials elicited little~~ ^{with the organization of arms caches and sabotage plans.} ~~public sympathy for the Communists among the conspirators.~~ The party ^{now lacks popular support,} ~~is~~ ^{and works} ~~currently~~ ^{with} underground, its principal leaders in hiding or ^{in exile. Some are reported to be} ~~gradually~~ ^{returning secretly} infiltrating back from Syria where they took refuge after the counter-coup.

~~SECRET~~

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